Field firing station of army in Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad

309. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Army is having a field firing station covering an area of about 1000 acres of land near Jawahar Nagar at Shamirpet, in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this field firing station is surrounded by habitation;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh is persistently requesting for shifting of this station; and

(d) if so, what steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Lake Line Rifle Ranges near Jawahar Nagar at Shamirpet covering an area of approximately 1100 acres of land, the only firing range available in the station since 1964 for training personnel in uniform, has slowly been surrounded by increased population of Hyderabad city.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has raised this issue in his discussions with the Raksha Mantri. Government of Andhra Pradesh, who have been approached for an alternative range, has not yet indicated any alternative site for the range.

Paralysed state of decision making in three services

310. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the admission by Defence Minister that decision making in the three services had been almost paralysed in the past seven months as reported in 'Statesman' (Kolkata) dated 5th November, 2001;

(b) whether Army had spent only fifteen per cent for arms purchase and Air Force and Navy 29-30 per cent of the allocation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether responsibility for this state of affairs has been fixed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the news item published in the "Statesman" (Kolkata) dated 5th November 2001. During the current financial year (upto October 2001) the percentage expenditure of the Budgeted Estimates under the Capital Head for the Army is 18 percent, for the Navy is 38 percent and for the Air Force is 32 percent and under the Revenue Heads for the Army is 37 percent, for the Navy is 41 percent and for the Air Force is 36 percent.

Procurement is a continuous process. Several procurement proposals are in progress and are likely to materialise in due course.

Action against Military Officials mentioned in the Tehelka Tapes

311. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action against military officers mentioned in the Tehelka tapes; and

(b) whether any further action being contemplated, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Army Court of Inquiry found some of the military officers blameworthy for their various acts of omission and commission in the defence equipment deal with a fictitious foreign firm as alleged by the Tehelka.com and recommended action against the officers.